

strange bird, and after following the trail for a considerable distance they caught sight of the object of their search, which ran with great speed. For a long time it distanced the dogs, but was at length driven up a gully in Resolution Island and captured alive. It uttered loud screams and fought and struggled violently: it was kept alive three or four days, and then (the men being ignorant of its value) was killed and the body roasted and eaten by the crew, each partaking of the dainty, which was said to be delicious. The skin, with the skull and bones of the feet and legs, was preserved, and obtained by Mr. Mantell, and in this manner the last of the race was preserved. The bird was a magnificent creature, about two feet high; the beak was short and strong and the legs were beautiful scarlet color. The neck and body were dark purple, the wings and back being shot with green and gold. The wings were short and round and remarkably feeble both in structure and plumage. The skeleton is now in the collection of the British Museum: price, \$800. Here also can be seen the remains of a nocturnal parrot (*Uristor productus*) that years ago inhabited Phillips Island, an isolated spot in the Southern Ocean, five miles in length, but now, according to the Norfolk Islanders who are only a few miles distant, has entirely disappeared.

### ON LABRADOR.

DEAR SIR.—A few words about the Natural History of Labrador, while you are on the subject, seem to me to be especially appropriate here now as you are finishing my report on that region in the *Sportsman*. The forthcoming Bulletin of the U. S. National Museum Vol. V, I believe, will contain a report on the Invertebrates which I collected in dredging in the odd moments of three weeks on the coast, while upon an excursion there. I have not seen at this time, January 22, any sheets of the report myself, but understand that it combines, or adds a resumé of the work done in that region by Prof. Packard in 1860 thereabouts and published in the *Memoir* of the Boston Society of N. H. Now that good work remains to be done in that part of the coast can easily be seen. These preliminary reports show *part* of the field. What could be expected if one acquainted well with the coast should go there and spend the summer collecting and dredging, with apparatus for this and for fishing; and with plenty of alcohol

and cans and jars. I could confidently predict a perfectly magnificent harvest for any private individual or any institution who should make a small outlay for this purpose. A small house could be easily obtained for the summer, or better one built for the purpose at a small cost, and a permanent station made where renewed investigation could be carried on each year with a select corps, say of one good man with one or two assistants, and the result might even compare well with the work at present being done by the U. S. Fish Commissioners of the National Museum at Washington. There is no doubt but that the results would be invaluable in the investigations into the Labrador and northern fisheries. I believe that \$1000 would cover *all* expenses for the first year's work, and bring in such a host of rich and valuable material as to fully pay for all first cost of outfit and the season's work.

I want to say here, that I believe that this would aid in devising means of increasing the yearly "catch" in the Labrador and neighbouring waters. It is a fact just disputed—at least to one who has spent all the seasons with the poorly fed and cared for inhabitants,—though the majority have none to blame but themselves and their own idleness—that the fisheries are not what they used to be on this coast. Yet to show that the fish *are* there yet, and in a goodly number, note the success of several large firms during the summers of '83 and '82. I believe that the establishment of such a station by the Canada Government would give a new impulse to the fisheries there, and everywhere within Canada waters. I believe that it is possible to revive the spirits of the "faint hearted," and that even the "habitually lazy," of which there are a great number on the coast would turn to and pick up more courage, and I wish to improve their conditions and what is \$1000 if it accomplishes the double result of awakening renewed impulses of thrift in two to three hundred people, besides bringing in a harvest of its own peculiar kind in a complete display of the marine products of the fishing grounds: a complete series of the fishes in their different and peculiar stages of growth; and a complete practically illustrated collection of the Natural History of one of the most interesting regions of northern North America. How *much* more profitable this would be for science, and the world in general, than the fly away cruise of some "flying Dutchman"